Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices to recommend a Long Term Grain Policy for the country. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:—

(i) Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and Price Support Operations.

(ii) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) related issues.

(iii) Functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(iv) Grain Policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import.

(v) Allocation of foodgrains in Rural Development and other Welfare Programmes. The Committee has so far not submitted its final report.

Loss suffered by procuring agencies in Madhya Pradesh

†2598. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether paddy and wheat procuring agencies in Madhya Pradesh have suffered losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary steps to ensure that such procuring agencies do not suffer losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) As per present policy, incidental charges for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool are fixed in consultation with the representatives of the State Government. The difference between the Economic Cost of the State Government and the Central Issue Price is reimbursed to the State Government as subsidy.

Export of subsidised wheat

2599. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that India has exported more subsidised wheat than it sold to the domestic poor living below the poverty line as PDS offtake dips below wheat-exports;

(b) if so, whether India has exported to South Korea, Malaysia, Bangladesh, UAE, Indonesia, Oman, Iraq and Philippines to the tune of 1.6 million whereas 1.2 tonnes were provided to the people living Below Poverty Line in the country; and

(c) if so, why this wheat was not provided to the people living Below Poverty Line?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.